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EASTERN EUROPEAN INTELLIGENCER

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EE Reaction to President Johnson's Speech

Eastern European reaction to President Johnson's speech on 31 March has dropped off sharply during the last 24-hours, perhaps in anticipation of Hanoi's announcement early today to broadcast at 0930 EDT "a statement of the DRV Government on US restricted bombing of North Vietnam."

The general tone of available reaction continues to depict the President's speech as a strategic maneuver and to reflect uncertainty over the full significance of the Presidential remarks.

However, Czechoslovak reaction has changed from that favoring "a deep analysis of the long-term consequences of Johnson's speech" on 1 April to one on 2 April of carefully phrased concern over the limits placed on reduced bombing of North Vietnamese territory.

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Polish Foreign Trade Minister in Paris

Foreign Trade Minister Trampczynski arrived in Paris on 31 March for four days of economic talks. He will be received by economic and financial experts, as well as by Foreign Minister Couve de Murville. According to AFP, the visit will prepare the way for party boss Gomulka's trip to France sometime this fall, probably September.

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COMMENT: There is nothing as yet to indicate that Trampczynski's trip is more than economic in nature. This is the second time in three weeks that the French have referred to Gomulka's rumored trip to Paris this fall. Nervous over the potential effects of unrest in Poland on DeGaulle's image of Europe's future, they may be attempting to smoke out the Poles, who have yet to mention the possibility of Gomulka's making such a trip.

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Hungarians Reportedly Expect Rumanians to Attend Preparatory Commission

The Hungarians reportedly think that, in view of Rumania's continuing contacts with its Eastern European allies, the Rumanians will attend the 24 April meeting of the preparatory commission for the international communist conference.

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the Rumanians will send a delegation to Budapest to begin discussions on renewing the Hungarian-Rumanian friendship treaty which will be signed during Kadar's upcoming trip to Bucharest.

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COMMENT: At this point it is unlikely that the Rumanians and Hungarians will be able to reach agreement on the terms of a new treaty. The Soviets and the Rumanians have so far failed to agree on their treaty and without such Soviet guidelines the Hungarians will find it difficult to proceed. It is also highly unlikely that the Rumanians will attend the session of the Budapest preparatory commission.

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Belgrade-Bonn Talks on Yugoslav Workers in the FRG Suspended

Yugoslav-West German talks on the position of Yugoslav workers in the Federal Republic of Germany were suspended on 1 April after apparently making some progress. The talks are scheduled to resume at the beginning of September in Belgrade, at which time the two countrys hope to reach an agreement on social security benefits for Yugoslav workers in the FRG. [REDACTED]

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COMMENT: The regulation of social security for Yugoslavs in West Germany has been a major goal of Belgrade's for several years and now that diplomatic relations have been reestablished between the two countrys the Tito regime has high hopes that negotiations on this subject can be successfully concluded. Approximately 150,000 Yugoslavs are currently employed in West Germany.

Student Unrest in East Germany

Students at Humboldt University in East Berlin called for a greater voice in educational reforms, according to an article in the 28 March West German paper Die Welt. At an assembly in the University's main hall on 27 March one student speaker criticized "abstract concepts of freedom" and called instead for more "concrete freedom."

Students in Magdeburg staged a march carrying slogans in support of the war in Vietnam, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The students were finally dispersed by a larger group of party youth (FDJ), but not before a brief scuffle took place in which the demonstrators tore off the FDJers party badges. Another incident occurred in Magdeburg when police had to drive off students who had placed park benches in a fountain, sat down on them and began discussing innocuous party topics.

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[REDACTED]

COMMENT: Despite ambitious regime efforts to control the effects of developments in Poland and Czechoslovakia, dissent is becoming evident among portions of the East German populace. As a counter measure the government had

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hoped to involve the people in a massive drive to win acceptance for the draft constitution. This ploy seems to be backfiring, at least in some cases, though we are unable to determine the breadth and depth of opposition at this time.



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